

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

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R 021335Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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SUBJECT: EGYPT AND PLO

REF: CAIRO 5754

1. STATEMENT BY GOE MININFO ABU AL-MAGD ON EGYPTIAN/PALESTINIAN RELATIONS IS FEATURED IN CAIRO NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 2. MINISTER'S REMARKS ARE IN SAME STERN VEIN AS SADAT'S JULY 23 SPEECH AND FAHMY'S GUMHURIYYA INTERVIEW AUGUST 1 (REFTEL).

2. ABU AL-MAGD'S CHIEF POINT IS THAT EGYPT HAS ACHIEVED MUCH FOR PLO. HE LAMENTED EFFORTS TO BLACKEN EGYPTIAN POLICY UNDER-
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TAKEN BY "THOSE WHO DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSEQUENCES

OF THEIR ACTIONS." GOE/PLO RELATIONS, HE SAID, ARE GOVERNED BY CERTAIN PRINCIPLES: BOTH ARE PARTNERS IN STRUGGLE AND COMBAT, BOTH HAVE COMMON CAUSE IN REMOVING TRACES OF AGGRESSION AND ESTABLISHING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, AND BOTH BELIEVE DIALOGUE, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, IS LOGICAL AND LEGITIMATE.

3. THE MINISTER ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER "THOSE TRYING TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS"; HAVE FORGOTTEN EGYPT'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING PLO AND IN ATTAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR IT. ARAFAT VISITED USSR IN COMPANY OF LARGE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, HE RECALLED. GOE/PLO RELATIONS ARE "STRATEGIC" IN THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY CONDITION TO FACING UP TO COMPLICATED CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. MINISTER RECALLED REPEATED ASSERTIONS BY SADAT AND FAHOY THAT EGYPT DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF A DEPUTY OR TRUSTEE, AND THAT PALESTINIAN RESISTENCE IS FREE TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

4. ISSUE OF PROVISIONAL PLO GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SHELVED BY GOE SOME WEEKS AGO, ARISES AGAIN IN FRONT PAGE ITEM CAIRO DAILY AHRAH. NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT PALESTINIAN CIRCLES ARE STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF CREATING PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF INCREASING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REP OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. BULGARIA AND ROMANIA ARE CITED AS MOST RECENT ADHERENTS TO THIS POSITION.

6. MOMMENT: FYI: FOLLOWING SADAT'S RETURN FROM SOFIA, THERE WAS EARNEST THOUGH LOW KEY EFFORT MADE BY GOE WITH WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN CAIRO TO CONVINCE THEM OF EXTRAORDINARY SIGNIFICANCE OF SADAT'S SUCCESS IN DRAWING ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN GOVERNMENTS INTO "UNQUALIFIED" SUPPORT OF PLO'S CLAIM TO BEING SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS. AHRAH IS APPARENTLY STILL FLAGGING THIS NOTION.
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EILTS

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